# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
BRINGING DOWN MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the UNICEF has recently published data wherein it has been stated that in India, the percentage of death of women during childbirth is 20 per cent more than the global maternal mortality rate and death of 540 mothers on the birth of 1 lakh children has also been recorded;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the salient findings of the said survey;

(d) the percentage of maternal mortality rate (during pregnancy and childbirth ) as per the survey conducted; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring down maternal mortality rate in the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes, UNICEF has published data in the year 2000 alongwith WHO. Based on the data published by them, it has been estimated that more than 20% of maternal deaths out of the total global deaths occur in India.

(b) to (d) Yes, two Surveys have been conducted by the Government of India in this regard.

As per Sample Registration System carried out by the Registrar General of India (1998), the maternal mortality rate is 407 per 100,000 live births.

National Family Health Survey 1998-99 (NFHS-II) estimated Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) as 540 per 100,000 live births.

e) In the NPP-2000 and NHP- 2002, the goal for reduction in maternal mortality rate has been kept as less than 100 per 100,000 live births. Government of India is actively pursuing this goal under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including Services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. The mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012.Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be strengthened through:

Implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives and services are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL). In case of Institutional delivery, in the low performing States benefits under the scheme is available to Non-BPL Pregnant Women also. The age bar and number of birth criteria has also been removed in these States.

Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.

Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services

Making 50% Primary Health Centers functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years

Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth both in the community and the Institutions.